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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER

Vol. VII.—No. 4.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1886.

Per Annum, Four Dollars.  
Single Copies, 38 Cents.

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Entered at the New York Post Office as Second-class Mail Matter.

## The Decorator and Furnisher.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER COMPANY.

JAMES A. ROBINSON, President and Treas.

J. M. BOKEE, Secretary.

A. CURTIS BOND, Editor.

S. C. JUDSON, Manager Subscription Department.

Office, Nos. 30 & 32 East Fourteenth Street, New York.

Address all communications to

The Decorator and Furnisher Co.,

30 & 32 East Fourteenth Street, New York City.

Subscription, \$4.00 per Year, in advance.

(Patent Binder, 50 cents extra.)

Single Numbers.....35 Cents.

English and French Subscribers supplied through our Agencies.

LONDON AGENCY,

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS COMPANY, 11 BOULEVARD ST. (FLEET ST.)

PARIS AGENCY, VZ MOREL & CIE.

### ADVERTISING TERMS.

Single Insertion, \$3.00 per inch; Twelve Insertions, \$25.00 per inch.  
Terms for larger spaces made known on application.

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Designs and Articles submitted for publication, will be returned, if not accepted.

Correspondents will please give their full address in each communication.

We will not undertake to Classify any Advertisement received later than the 10th of the Month.

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OUR AUTHORIZED COLLECTORS ARE PROVIDED WITH WRITTEN AUTHORITY, NONE OTHERS ARE PERMITTED TO RECEIVE MONEY OR GIVE RECEIPT FOR US.

A battle, the *locale* of which is Philadelphia, has been raging some months, the combatants being Mr. Robert Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and Mr. Henry Janes, of Philadelphia. The *casus belli* is the attempt of Mr. Garrett to erect a portico opposite his house, which is next to the Janes domicile. Looking to the many fine buildings in our cities which are injured by their contiguity to others of different styles, it is interesting as it is curious to find any one on the watch to prevent the introduction of a façade feature on the part of his neighbor which he deems will be injurious to the exterior scenic attractions of his own dwelling. It is somewhat of a surprise, too, that an injunction should have been secured against the completion of the portico, causing the case to be carried to the Court of Appeals. A real and not a sham portico may be made an admirable feature to a house. No doubt, the design for the Garrett mansion is an elaborate one, and it were to be wished, rather than that neighbors should fall out, that Mr. Janes would erect one of his own, and so establish the force of contrast. It will be amusing to note how the lawyers will deal with the esthetic considerations that enter into the case, showing off a suddenly acquired erudition as to styles. Success for Mr. Janes in the Court of Appeals will possibly presage a general rising of house-owners, who, with mansions going up in their vicinity, calculated, in their view, to injure by comparison their frontages, will seek for redress through the "myrmidons of the law." Lawyers may be trusted in looking up the principles that apply to structural ornaments, but how they are to deal with the subtle effect of these structures in their vicinage, of different or composite styles, is a query none can venture to answer.

DECORATIVE art in this country is essentially eclectic, drawing from every available source, and embodying what may be judged serviceable without running into any marked excesses. There is a recognition that every style in the past, whether in the East or in Europe, had some feature of excellence that recommended it to be sought for and to be applied when occasion offers. The inventive, constructive and adaptive mind of Americans is all in favor of important advances in decorative art.

CHICAGO, December 23d.

MR. EDITOR—I am never content with simply reading the current numbers of your excellent journal, as these arrive, but am continually resorting to past issues for information, for THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER supplies information not only for reading pastime, but for study. Referring back to your illustrated description of George H. Boughton's London home, I find it stated that "up in the frieze of the ambler, or dining-room, two painted circular windows are placed with excellent effect, especially as they appear to compete in form with the plaques that are hung here and there in well selected places." Now, my suggestion is: In a room, splendid with decoration, why not have real mosaic glass windows inserted in the frieze where the wall abuts on a space open to natural light, which would impart a softening glow to the hues with ever-varying effect in shade. The method could be adopted with good artistic effect even where only one wall was not a party wall, for variety, not uniformity, is wanted in the different portions of a room. The shape of these inlets for light could conform to the design of the frieze. The frieze offers itself for brilliant gayety of hues, and here is a contribution. Yours, F. M. G.

WE are notified of the publication in book-form of the letter of commendation and other interesting documents received by the "wealthy" Frenchman who distinguished himself by declining to serve upon the Grant Monument Fund Committee for the reason that General Grant congratulated the Emperor William upon the termination of his victorious war with the French people.

It is needless for us to point out the petty spirit prompting the declination and the poor taste in perpetuating the pettiness in book-form; neither is there any necessity in reverting to the expressed sympathy and material aid extended to our adversaries in the Rebellion, by France, as an extenuation for General Grant, for he requires no such excuse. There is only one thought in it worthy of comment, and that is the entire alienation of every patriotic feeling that marks this one of our adopted citizens. A man who voluntarily leaves his native country and settles in ours, who becomes a citizen and utilizes the opportunities our country gives him sufficiently to become "wealthy," should identify his interests, his sympathies and all his best efforts with us, and should regard our struggles, our fame and our international reputation as his own. Anything short of this is unworthy of a man.

WE regret the absence this month of the usual contribution from Mr. Ralph A. Cram on "Furnishing and Decoration of City Houses." The drawing went astray in the mail, and the series is thereby interrupted until our next issue.

WE regret that the entire issue of our pamphlet of the 7th Regiment Armory interior is exhausted. We have had almost as many calls for them since the last one was disposed of as constituted the original edition. We are considering another edition.